

Andrew Jackson to James Gadsden, December 6, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO COLONEL JAMES GADSDEN.

Hermitage, December 6, 1821.

D'r Gadsden. your congratulatory letter of the 20th ult is Just to hand, and from my own fire side I have the pleasure to respond to it.

I had confidence in the good sense of the honest part of the community, that my proceedings in the case of Callava (which has given so much scope for invective against me, by these restless and unprincipled Editors) would be fully approved by the nation as soon as it was fully disclosed to the public. as I before have stated to you, I proceeded in the case aluded to, with a firm but cautious step. the more I review the case the better I am pleased with myself, and altho I am free to admit, that the approbation of the nation would be gratifying to me, yet would I not change the proceedings if to be acted over again to obtain it—my conscience on this subject is perfectly at rest.

I have not seen the advocate of N. Y.¹ But it is the most ludicrous Idea immaginable that he insinuates and intimates. I have never seen Govr. Clinton. I have never recd. but two introductory letters from him, he has never wrote me upon any subject unless that of introducing his friends to me, nor have I ever wrote him but in return and on the subject of his friend, so introduced, and as my recollection at present serves me not more than twice, and then only acknowledging the receipt of his letters, and informing him that there were no offices within my gift that I could besto *upon* his friend. never did Mr. Clinton in his life intimate to me the subject of the presidential election, either by writing, or by verbal

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communication, nor never has it been heard from my lips that I would support him as such. Therefore on this score Mr. Crawford and his friends may have no fear—nor need they expect any other than Mr. Adams to be supported in this state unless some Southern candidate should arise, and I am certain no man in the South could concentrate the votes of the south and west but Mr. Calhoun, and you are at liberty to say in my name both to my friends and enemies, that I will as far as my influence extends support Mr. Adams unless Mr. Calhoun should be brought forward—and that I have no doubt but Mr. Adams will out pole Mr. Crawford in the south and west, should these two run alone.

1 The New York *Advocate* had suggested that Jackson had combined with DeWitt Clinton to make the latter President. The suggestion, said Gadsden, was “now going the rounds” through the press.

I think highly of Mr. Clintons talents and of his great exertions to promote the interest of his state, but his popularity from some cause has greatly declined in the west and if he was to offer could not be elected. you know my private opinion of Mr. Adams Talents, virtue, and integrity, and I am free to declare that I have never changed this opinion of Mr. Adams since it was first formed, I think him a man of the first rate mind of any in america as a civilian and scholar, and I have never doubted of his attachment to our republican Government. you may therefore inform the advocate or his friends that (*as usual*) he is again wrong in his discoveries, and that I never have nor never will form a combination with any man or set of men, to carry any thing into effect, that I have an opinion of my own on all subjects, and when that opinion is formed I persue it, *publickly* , regardless of who goes with me, that in all things as far as I have control I please myself by doing that which I believe to be right, and this rule I will strictly follow in my cho[i]ce for the next president. and my dear Sir I feel greatly indebted to you for your friendly, defence of my reputation. That man is not on earth, that can with truth say I ever was engaged in a political combination of any kind, or for any purpose. Therefore the advocate and his

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friends has stated what is not true. present me to Brunaugh and all friends. Mrs. J Joins me in good wishes

P. S. as to Wm. H Crawford you know my opinion I would support the Devil first.